

FRANCO-GERMAN RELATIONS 1871-
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that no request for explanations had been made; and that Berlin had also been informed of the Franco-Spanish treaty before it was published in September, 1904. The Under-secretary, who received the complaint, replied that he knew nothing of Kuhlmann's declarations, but added that Germany was not bound by the Anglo-French or Franco-Spanish agreements.

After the despatch of the French mission to Fez, Holstein suggested that William IE should visit Tangier. Billow approved the plan, and the ruler reluctantly accepted their advice. The *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* proclaimed that the French negotiations at Fez did not square with the avowed policy of maintaining the status quo in Morocco. ^ It is useless to attribute to the Tangier visit any selfish purposes against its integrity or independence," declared the Chancellor in the Reichstag on March 29, 1905. " No one who does not pursue an aggressive goal can find cause for apprehension. We have economic interests, and in Morocco, as in China, it is our interest to keep the open door/* Two days later the Kaiser landed at Tangier and addressed the German colony. " The Empire has great and growing interests in Morocco. Commerce can only progress if all the Powers are considered to have equal rights under the sovereignty of the Sultan and respect the independence of the country. My visit is the recognition of this independence." The theme was developed in a speech to the representative of the Sultan. " It is to the Sultan in his capacity of independent sovereign that I pay my visit to-day. I hope that under his sovereignty a free Morocco will remain open to the peaceful competition of all nations, without monopoly or annexation, on a basis of absolute equality." France was not mentioned, but these

words were intended for her ears. The Wilhelmstrasse took advantage of the opportune collapse of Russia on the Manchurian battle-fields to menace her ally, but this was not the main ground for its action. A protest would have been made in any case. Since the French press had begun to speak of making Morocco a second Tunis, Germany was convinced that, if she did not call a halt, the country would be swallowed up before her eyes. She had now to think not only of her commerce but of her prestige.

The charge against Delcassé of slighting Germany by not officially communicating the treaty of April 8, 1904, to the German Government is trivial enough, but to a graver